

members from the Head of the Church, and depriving them of the influence of the Spirit;* and, however unwelcome and unpopular may be the declaration of this doctrine, the plain sense of Holy Scripture forbids us to compromise it from false delicacy, or worldly timidity, or from any other motive whatever.

But,—say they who are anxious to excuse schism,—if separation from the established Church constitutes the deadly sin of schism so fearfully denounced by the Apostles, how can you justify your own separation from the Church of Rome?—The plain answer is that we did *not* separate from it.—We reformed the Church of England; we reformed many abuses which ignorance and corruption had introduced; we abolished many practices which savour of idolatry, and many more which are in direct contempt of the Word of God, and contrary to sound doctrine; and we denied the right of the Bishop of Rome to govern the whole Church by his arbitrary power, as well as the infallibility of the Church, upon which that usurpation is founded: We established the principle, to which I have before adverted, of a canonical and legal, instead of an absolute and slavish obedience; and for having done these things, the Church of England is denounced as heretical by the Church of Rome, excommunicated on earth, and declared incapable of acceptance in Heaven.

* Jude v. 19.